

The Future of Eastern High School
Community Meeting
February 4, 2009
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Discussion Leader: Gerren Price

The notes below reflect our effort to summarize the comments, questions and concerns expressed at each meeting. They are not recorded verbatim and should not be considered direct quotations.

Overview: Participants were excited to participate in planning process. Most were supportive of traditional liberal arts education combined with technical skills or an academy program. There was an emphasis on not pigeon-holing students and making sure many options were available for diverse interests and abilities.

Attendance:

0 Teachers
8 Eastern Parents
8 Future Eastern Parents
2 Community Advocates
4 Other School Staff
1 Student
7 Eastern Alumni
1 Other

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Construction process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The construction process should involve students. The students should learn about construction, green building, and architecture by integrating modernization into the school's curriculum.
Physical Planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eastern parent wants to see blueprints and do a walk through before construction begins.
Academic planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The planning should pull from best practices and past success.- The programs should nurture children in their gifts.- There should be an IB program that is coupled with a pre-IB program in middle school.- The new Eastern curriculum must be

	<p>connected to surrounding elementary and middle school programs. A deliberate feeder pattern and connection to Eastern is crucial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school should offer a comprehensive program with many options. - The program should use best practice of private schools – especially the intake process of interviewing students and requiring an entrance essay to be admitted. - The school should have an international/government program that is linked to Capitol Hill. - There should be a greenhouse and a plant studies program.
Academy Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be a 9th grade transition academy where students explore academy offerings before choosing a specific direction in grades 10-12. - If there is an academy, make sure there is still a base of information and knowledge that every student learns in case of career change later. - Academies should not be implemented too early as to avoid “tracking” students. This often underestimates the strengths of students, especially those receiving special education services. - There should be a technology academy. - There should be a language immersion program. - If there is an academy, it must be directly tied to professions available in the surrounding area.
General Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restore Eastern as the pride of Capitol Hill. - We need to foster a greater sense of community. - Neighborhood students may not attend Eastern right away, but Eastern must offer an array of high-quality programs to begin attracting a larger pool of students.

Extra-Curricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be an athletics program with sports like lacrosse, field hockey, and swimming. - The school should have art studios (with ceramics and kilns). - There should be a strong music program with an orchestra, marching band, and choir. - There should be a strong physical education program.
Current Eastern Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The curriculum at Eastern is not challenging enough and pales in comparison to other high schools. - Seniors who have met the most basic requirements by their final year should be able to take more challenging courses (more AP courses), college prep courses (like SAT Prep), and possibly college credit-bearing courses.